



PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO.: 11835/11

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of Atsushi TABATA, et al.
Group Art Unit: Unassigned (Parent Appln. Group 3661)
Application No.: 10/621,608
Examiner: Unassigned (Parent Appln. Richard M. Camby)
Filed: July 18, 2003
For: CONTROL APPARATUS FOR VARIABLE-CYLINDER ENGINE,
 AND CONTROL APPARATUS FOR VEHICLE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(2)

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and the enclosed PTO Form No. 1449, shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). The paragraphs marked below are applicable.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.

A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language references, is being submitted herein in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3):

JP 57-131840 A

This document discloses an engine control apparatus arranged to stop an engine during deceleration of a vehicle, and to place the engine in a decompression state, for increasing an amount of regeneration of an electric energy.

JP 10-169479 A and JP 8-338283 A

These documents show an engine control apparatus arranged to place one of two banks of cylinders in a non-operated or decompression state.

JP 2000-97068 A

This document discloses a hybrid vehicle wherein an amount of regeneration of an electric energy and an amount of engine braking are controlled depending upon a required degree of deceleration of the vehicle and an amount of electric energy stored in an energy storage device.

JP 10-220262 A

This document discloses an engine control apparatus arranged to change the number of cylinders placed in the operating state, depending upon a required amount of engine braking.

JP 11-182275 A

This document shows an engine control apparatus arranged such that a clutch connected to a variable-cylinder engine is placed in a slipping state, to absorb a variation in the engine output torque upon a change in the number of the cylinders placed in the operating state.

JP 2000-134718 A and JP 8-237806 A

These documents show a hybrid vehicle wherein a drive axle is disconnected from an engine during deceleration of the vehicle involving a regenerative braking operation.

JP 11-350995

This document discloses a hybrid vehicle wherein a difference between output torque values of an engine in an all-cylinder operating state and a partial-cylinder operating state is eliminated by controlling an assisting torque or an amount of regeneration of an electric energy generated by an electric motor.

JP 6-319206 A

This document discloses a hybrid vehicle wherein an amount of regeneration of an electric energy is controlled according to a required amount of deceleration of the vehicle, and an engine braking torque and a hydraulic braking torque are controlled by the speed ratio of an automatic transmission, and wherein a regenerated electric energy is consumed by a resistor when an electric energy storage device is charged with a large amount of electric energy.

JP 10-004607 A

This document shows a hybrid vehicle wherein clutch 5 is placed in a slipping state during a regenerative braking operation.

JP 59-013153 A

This document shows a vehicle wherein a transmission is placed in a disconnected state upon falling of an engine speed below a threshold value during a partial-cylinder operating state of the engine, to prevent a stall of the engine.

* * * *

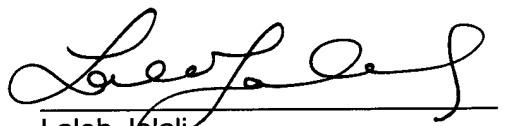
The Examiner is respectfully requested to review, and to mark as considered, the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449, to make said references of record in the present application and to include said references in the "References Cited" section of any patent to issue on the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 11-0600 for any fees pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), and any other outstanding fees and costs associated with the instant communication.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Date: 09-12-03


Laleh Jalali
Registration No. 40,031

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-1257
Tel: (202) 220-4200
Fax: (202) 220-4201



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/621,608
Filing Date	July 18, 2003
First Named Inventor	Atsushi TABATA, et al.
Group Art Unit	Unassigned (Parent Group 3661)
Examiner Name	Unassigned (Parent-R. M. Camby)
Attorney Docket Number	11835/11

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JAPAN 57-131840 A	8-14-1982			
		JAPAN 10-169479 A	6-23-1998			
		JAPAN 8-338283 A	12-24-1996			
		JAPAN 2000-97068 A	4-4-2000			
		JAPAN 10-220262 A	8-18-1998			
		JAPAN 11-182275 A	7-6-1999			
		JAPAN 2000-134718 A	5-12-2000			
		JAPAN 8-237806 A	9-13-1996			
		Japan 11-350995 A	12-21-1999			
		Japan 6-319206 A	11-15-1994			
		JAPAN 10-004607 A	1-6-1998			
		JAPAN 59-013153	1-23-1984			

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

¹ EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

² Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³ See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

⁴ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁷ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

DC01 468658V1